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Army

COUNTRY: I. L.

REPORT NO. ID: 207832

SUBJECT: Activities of Abdul Asil, Husayn and Abdul Majeed SAID

DATE OF REPORT: 12 December 1961

DATE OF INFO: November 1961

NO. OF PAGES: 1 of 2

PLACE & DATE ACQ: Beirut, Lebanon, 26 November 1961

REFERENCE: ID 217463
ID 2133969

EVALUATION: B-2
SOURCE: UN-ICR

FROM: DIA
PREPARED BY: DIA
MESSAGE NO.: CM-111-61

SUMMARY: SPecIAL DIALEINE UNIT 207832, TEL NEW YORK, TO DIA/CIA, 12 DECEMBER 1961. HUSAYN, FORMER GRAND MUFTI OF JERUSALEM, IS PLANNING TO CREATE A VOLUNTEER BATTALION TO CONDUCT GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST ISRAEL. HE IS ALSO PLANNING TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING A STRIP OF SYRIAN TERRITORY IN WHICH TO ESTABLISH AN "EXILE GOVERNMENT". HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING FUNDS FROM THE RULER OF KUWAIT AND FROM THE RULER OF IRAQ. HIS SON, ABDUL MAJEEB SAID, IS A COMMERCIAL MANAGER IN CAIRO. HE IS PLANNING TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH OFFICE IN CAIRO.

REMARKS: RE-BRIEFING OF AC OF 5 ICRC, CIO, DIA, DIA/CIA, 12 December 1961. *Woolley*

This report contains information regarding the plans of Hajj Asil HUSAYN, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, to create a volunteer battalion to conduct guerrilla warfare against Israel. It also gives details about the commercial activities of Abdul Majeed SAID, the son-in-law of the Grand Mufti, and how his commercial ventures tie in with the Mufti's plans.

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1. Hajj Asil HUSAYN, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and currently a resident of Beirut, Lebanon, recently returned from a trip to Tunisia, Morocco, and possibly Algeria. The purpose of this trip was to meet with Algerian rebel leaders to discuss guerrilla warfare techniques and the Mufti's plan to organize a volunteer battalion to conduct guerrilla-type warfare against the State of Israel. According to source the Mufti is more determined than ever to organize such a volunteer battalion. He would like to explore the possibility of recruiting members of Algerian rebel fighters to form the nucleus of such a force, primarily since the Algerian rebels have had many years of experience in this type warfare. The Mufti is hoping that he can soon undertake discussions with the new Syrian regime about the possibility of acquiring a strip of Syrian territory in which to establish an "exile government" and organize and train his volunteer battalion. Recently the Mufti has been exploring the possibility of setting up a broadcasting station for his "exile government". He has gone so far as to request quotations on the cost of such an installation and has sent his son-in-law, SAID, to Saudi Arabia to learn the broadcasting business with the firm of Al-Saud in Jeddah. Although the Mufti is still only receiving funds from the ruler of Kuwait and from the ruler of Basra of Iraq, money to organize and pay a battalion of men appears to be the Mufti's greatest problem at the moment.

2. Abdul Majeed SAID, a former Lt Col of Artillery in the Egyptian Army and son-in-law of the Mufti, founded a commercial firm in Beirut about one year ago and is now actively engaged in carrying on some of his father's operations. The purpose of this enterprise is to increase the income of the firm, so that additional funds can be made available to the Mufti to support his activities. SAID's company is evidently prospering already. He recently sold a large quantity of uniforms to Turkey in which he earned a profit of 150,000 Lebanese pounds. SAID has drawn up plans to open branch offices in Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, Iraq. He also plans to establish a central purchasing office in West Germany and hopes to open a branch office in Germany when the new government there is stabilized. He intends to employ a managing secretary in his

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RECORDED AT 12 Y.A. THE
DIA/CIA, 12 DECEMBER 1961
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Beirut office to handle German and English correspondence and may eventually place a European in each of the branch offices. The firm will deal primarily in the sale of military items; uniforms, equipment, supplies, etc. According to source, SAAD has excellent possibilities of making a success of this venture since the Mufti still has considerable influence in various Middle East areas and will be able to throw much business in SAAD's direction. Several relatives of the Mufti hold positions in the Saudi Arabian Government also. SAAD was scheduled to meet with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Defense of Kuwait on 5 December 1961 regarding the establishment of a branch office in Kuwait and the prospect of contracts there. Free Kuwait, SAAD planned to travel to Baghdad to seek an audience with President Nasser on the same subject.

3. SAAD's business card reads: Saad Trading Office, Civil Engineering and Contracting, Export-Airport, Telephone 218910, P.O. 6600, Beirut, Lebanon, Cables: ANASIA. SAAD's home telephone number in Beirut is 219055.

SOURCE COMMENT: SAAD's firm will also make all of the military purchases for the Mufti and will provide cover for some of the Mufti's activities.

b. On 27 November 1961, SAAD allegedly gave the go-ahead on a bullet-proof vest order for the Mufti. However, since no credit has been established and no money has changed hands, this order is not considered firm as yet by the manufacturer.

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